

# Lake Calavera Preserve Improvements At-a-Glance

The City of Carlsbad will make improvements this fall to the Lake Calavera Preserve, one of the city's largest areas of protected habitat and nature trails located in the northeastern part of Carlsbad. The work, which includes the installation of a restroom for trail users and the replacement of invasive plant species with native plants, will require some temporary trail closures once work gets under way.

## The planned improvements include:

- Removal of invasive palm and pepper trees
- New native plants and habitat restoration
- Installation of a single-stall restroom with drinking fountain and bike rack
- Vegetation clearing near dam
- Temporary landscape irrigation

Work will begin in September after bird nesting season has concluded, and is scheduled for completion by the end of December.

Nearly \$600,000 is being invested by the city to improve this popular open space area.

## Special-Status Species

Replacement of the non-native palm trees with native trees will provide potential habitat for endangered bird species like those shown below.



Least Bell's vireo nest within native vegetation.



Southwestern willow flycatcher chicks in nest within willow tree like the ones to be planted.

## About the Improvements

### Why is the palm grove being removed?

The effects of invasive vegetation like the Mexican fan palm and Brazilian pepper tree can have profound effects on native vegetation and wildlife while providing habitat for non-native species that prey upon native species, including those that are threatened or endangered. The dead and dried palm fronds also increase fire risk.

### Will something be planted in place of the palm grove?

The site will be restored with native plants like the western sycamore, western cottonwood, coast live oak, California blackberry, red willow and Mexican elderberry.

### Is this the first time the city has done something like this at Lake Calavera Preserve?

No. Over the last nine years, the city has performed many maintenance activities and has several mitigation and restoration sites within the preserve. Each of these projects has improved the quality of the preserve for wildlife.

### Why is the city adding a restroom to this open space?

Plans for a restroom were included in the trails master plan in 2005 after a comprehensive public input process. A restroom has long been one of the top items requested at this popular open space area.

### I still have questions. Who can I contact?

A more detailed FAQ is available online at [www.carlsbadca.gov/trails](http://www.carlsbadca.gov/trails) or you may call 760-602-2780 for more information.

# Lake Calavera Preserve Improvement Projects

Fall 2016

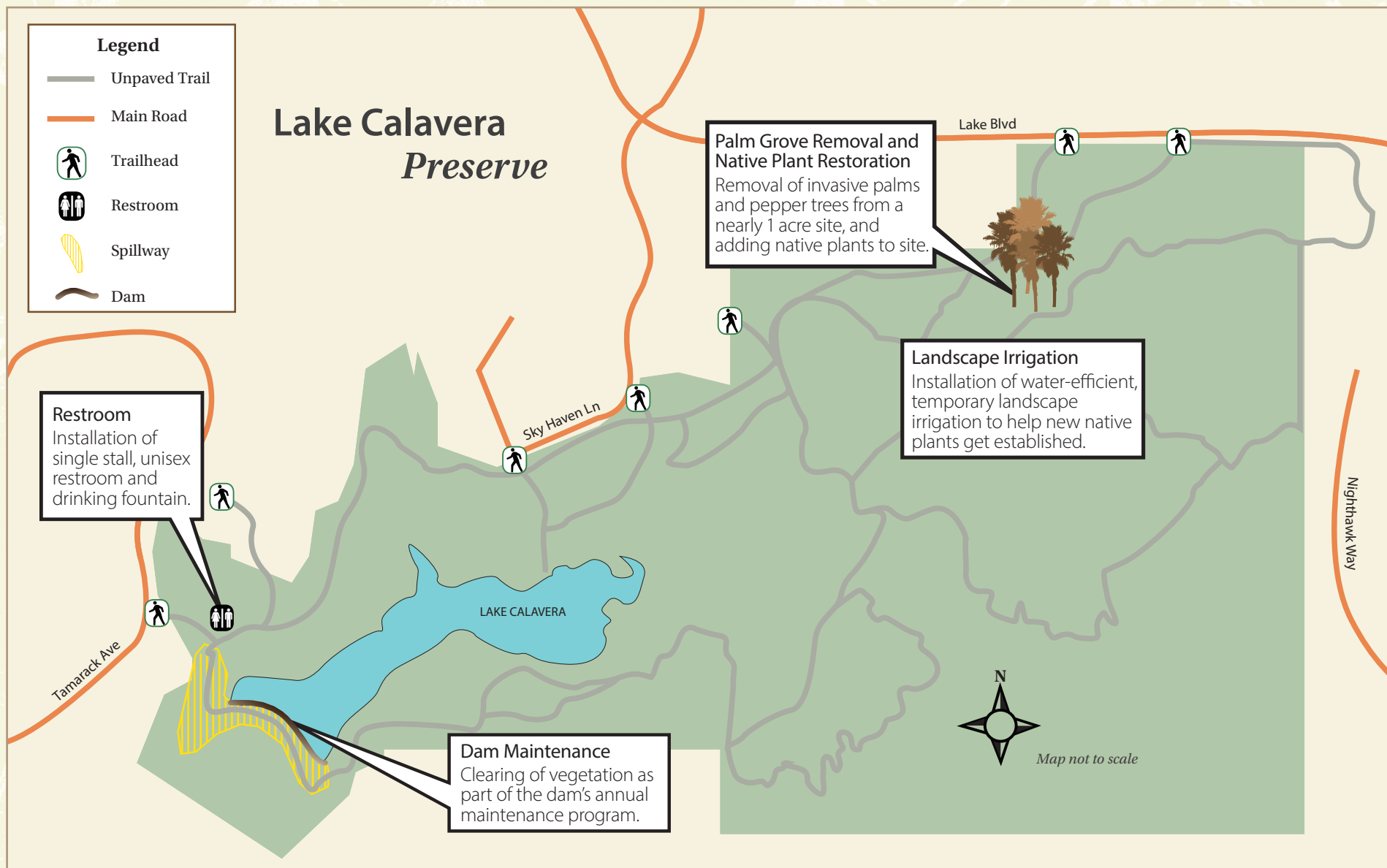
## Before



## After







## Timeline

### September

Palm grove removal begins  
Restroom site work begins  
Dam vegetation clearing begins

### October

Native plant restoration begins  
Restroom construction begins

### November

Native plant restoration complete; 120 day plant establishment period begins  
Temporary landscape irrigation installation begins

### December

Restroom opens to public  
Temporary landscape irrigation complete